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Ajit Pai, Chairman Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner Brendan Carr, Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

To the Honorable Chair and Commissioners,

The Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology (CET) submits this comment for your deliberation and consideration related to the topic of Net Neutrality.

The Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology is an independent group formed in 2000 by the Connecticut Legislature, composed of twenty leaders from education, business, information technology, and government. The Commission is empowered by the Connecticut General Assembly to envision, coordinate, and oversee the management and successful integration of technology in Connecticut's schools, libraries, colleges, and universities. As the state's principal educational technology advisor, the Commission works to ensure the effective and equitable use of resources, without duplication, and engender cooperation and collaboration in creating and maintaining technology-based tools for use by all the people of Connecticut.

It is the mission of the CET to create equitable learning opportunities for all students through the use of technology. Connecticut, through the work of the Commission, has been a national leader in improving access for our students to the Internet. Much of the work of the Commission over the past 18 years, including the launch and oversight of the State's research and education network, has addressed equity in access to technology in support of teaching and learning. This mission has become even more vital in today's world, where students, educators, and institutions depend on open access to the Internet for virtually every aspect of education. Whether at home, school, or library, our future generations of citizens and leaders leverage technology to attain greater academic achievement.

Because the assurance of Net Neutrality increases learning options for the educational community, we strongly urge the Federal Communications Commission to continue to uphold these protections. Doing so would help ensure open access to all Internet content and services, regardless of perspective or source, without variable pricing bundles for various sources, or the imposition of inequitable speeds dependent on prices paid by content providers to access providers.



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Removing these protections has the potential to destroy much of the progress gained toward ensuring equitable access to essential teaching, learning, and even operational resources in our state and nationwide.

For these reasons, we urge the Federal Communications Commission to take steps to ensure continued access to an open Internet, providing our students with the education they need to compete on a global stage.

Sincerely,

Mark Raymond

Chair, Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology